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## Irish priest who served in Oregon for nearly 50 years dies

Wednesday, January 23, 2013 6:42 AM

Father Cathal Brennan, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Portland, died Jan. 19 at his home in Ireland.

Born on March 11, 1928, in Kilconly, Tuam, County Galway, Ireland, to Peter Joseph Brennan and Kathleen Delia McHugh, he attended seminary high school at St. Jarlath College, Tuam. After attending college seminary at All Hallows Seminary in Dublin, Father Brennan came to Oregon, where he was ordained for the archdiocese on June 22, 1952.

Father Brennan's first assignment in Oregon was as associate pastor at St. John the Baptist Church in Milwaukie, from 1952 until August of 1966. He then served as associate pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Rainier, a post he held until January 1968 when he was appointed Newman chaplain and pastor of Our Lady of the Mountain Parish in Ashland.

In July of 1969, he became pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Medford, until his appointment as pastor of St. Paul Parish, Silverton, in February 1972. He remained there until being named pastor of St. Alice Parish in Springfield in April 1978. Ten years later, he was appointed pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Portland. He served there until July 1998, when he delayed retirement to serve as administrator of St. Paul Parish, Silverton, for one year. He finally retired in 1999. Most recently, he had resided at the Maryfield Nursing Home in Atheny, County Galway. He moved back to Ireland in 2009 to be near his family.

A vigil for Father Brennan was held in the home of his sister, Myra Concannon Sunday evening, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday at St. Conleth's Church, in Tuam. He was buried in the church grounds also at St. Conleth's.

He is survived by his sister, Myra Concannon, her husband Joe, and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.



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